GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7347
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
MINERALS AVAILABLE IN OCEAN BED
JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various minerals available in the ocean bed under Indian territory and the estimated reserves thereof ;

(b) the arrangements made so far for taping these resources and the names of private companies besides Public Sector bodies to whom this work has been entrusted; and

(c) the reasons for assigning this job to foreign companies instead of Indian companies ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS

(SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a) : The ocean bed in the Indian terretorry is endowed withminerals such as oil and gas and heavy minerals sand. The available reserves of different minerals are given hereunder:-

i) Oil and Gas : Initial in place reserves of hydrocarbons as on 1.4.99 underlying the subsoil of sea in India are estimated to be 3.79 Billion Metric Tonnes of Oil and oil equivalent gas.
ii) Heavy Minerals Sand : It comprises ilmenite, rutile, zircon, sillimanite, monazite, magnetite and garnet.

The estimated reserves so far are ilmenite - 26.002 mt, Rutile - 0.397 mt, Zircon - 0.552 mt, Monazite - 1.868 mt, Sillimanite - 9.314 mt and Magnetite - 0.56 mt and garnet - 4.66 mt.

(b) & (c) : Government has been taking/propose to take following steps to exploit oil and gas reserves:

i) Mining leases and letters of authority have been issued in various sedimentary basins/areas of the Indian continental shelf.
ii) Besides ONGC, a number of private companies, both and Indian and multinationals, are engaged in oil and gas exploitation in offshore areas of the country. In order to attract considerable investment, augment production and to obtain state-of-art technology, several discovered fields have been awarded to various Indian private companies as also multinational companies for hydrocarbon exploitation. The names of these companies are as under :

Cairn Energy India Pty Ltd., Videocon Petroleum Ltd., Ravva Oil Singapore Pte Ltd., Enron Oil and Gas India Ltd., Reliance Industrie Ltd., Mosbacher India LLC, Hidustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd. (HOEC), Energy Equity India Petroleum Ltd., Hardy Oil and Ga Ltd., and Tata Petrodyne Ltd.

Monazite is recovered as a by-product of ilmenite mining by the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMML), a PSU under th Goernment of Kerala. Monazite is processed for prodcution of compounds of rare earths as well as of thorium and uranium.